Awareness about welfare schemes among people below poverty line

2539. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the vast majority of people in the country are still under-privileged and ignorant about the various developments and welfare schemes of Government particularly those below poverty line; and

(b) if so, the specific steps proposed to be initiated by the Union Government for the social justice and empowerment of below poverty line people particularly for enlightenment and education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) A weekly radio programme in Hindi and other regional languages is broadcast on All India basis for generating awareness on various welfare schemes of this Ministry among the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, disabled and elderly including those living below the poverty line. Further, it is proposed to educate and enlighten the above target groups on welfare schemes/ programmes through hoardings, bus side panels, folders and pamphlets.

Scholarships for students

2540. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scholarships/stipends provided for school as well as higher education to students under various schemes;

(b) when the number and amount of scholarships/stipends were last revised; and

(c) the total amount allocated on account of this annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In addition to the scholarship schemes implemented by other Ministries, including Ministry of Human Resource Development, following

schemes are implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

SI. No.	Name of Scheme	Budget Estimate (2006-07) (Rs. in crores)
1.	Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes	440.00
2.	Pre-Matrtc Scholarship to children of those engaged in Unclean Occupations	16.00
3.	Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs	31.49
4.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs	22.50
5.	National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities	Approx. annual expenditure of Rs. 65.00 lakhs

The rates of maintenance allowance payable under first two schemes has been revised w.e.f. 1.4.2003, whereas for the remaining schemes no revision has been done so far.

Proper utilization of funds allocated for schemes

2541. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated under various schemes of the Ministry are not being used to educationally empower SC/ST students;

(b) if so, the details alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total amount of funds that have been allocated to Orissa to empower SC/ST students during 2005-06; and

(d) the progress of utilization of these funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The funds released by the Ministry under various schemes are properly utilized. The level of expenditure under various schemes for the development of Scheduled Caste has been upto the mark and much above the level of Budget Estimate during 2005-06.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students, no Central assistance could be released to Government